--- “Series of 1897” - 200 Cigars - 445 x 22 mm. ---

--- *recess printed* in BLACK ink - unlisted Die Proof - [CANADA - F-68] **- scanned at 60% scale ---**

--- with the 24 mm. [AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO. OTTAWA **] imprint ---**

In 1897 the American Bank Note Company of Ottawa obtained the contract to print revenue and tax-paid stamps for the Canadian government. It was the sixtieth anniversary of the ascension of Queen Victoria to the throne of England, and a special effort was made to issue a beautifully engraved series of stamps.

A printing plate was prepared, as is attested by the extant control-numbered ***green*** and ***red*** strips. Whether strips were printed in ***black ink*** is unknown. Lee Brandom *does not* record *black* copies in the ‘Series of 1897’, although such strips are listed in his ‘Series of 1915’.

The catalogue would list this recess printed black two hundred cigar “Series of 1897” strip as follows:

RG-400 - 200 cigars, black, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove - 4½ mm red controls

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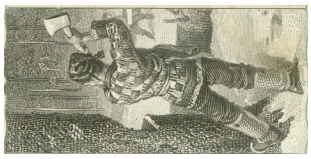
★**RG-400 DP** - 200 cigars, black, the *unlisted* die proof [CANADA - F - 68] on thick horizontal mesh wove,
[the design measures 445 x 22 mm - without counting the imprint]

Unfortunately, at some time in the past, these 1897 die proofs were trimmed as shown above by a person unknown. The longer proofs, in the larger denominations, were trimmed and then cut into two sections.



--- the lumberjack - scanned at 100% scale ---

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1897 \ Black \ 200 cigars - 445 mm strip],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
October 16th 2013- JBH